



Better Communities. Bigger Dreams. Brighter Futures.

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MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR

For immediate release:
June 18, 2009

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Note for Editors: Local interest for Bennington; Concordia; Garden City; Topeka and Wichita.

Snyder Announces Outstanding Mentoring Matches

Coach Bill Snyder, Co-Chair of Kansas Mentors, announced today the recipients of the 2009 Outstanding Mentoring Match award. Along with Kansas Mentors, Coach Snyder is excited to acknowledge these individuals as key players in the state's mentoring efforts.

"It is truly an honor to recognize these outstanding mentors and mentees," Snyder said. "Mentoring plays such a crucial role in the development of our youth and these Kansans are exemplifying that today."

Recipients of the 2009 Outstanding Mentoring Match award include: Casey and Steven, Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, Wichita, KS; Kendrick and Bill, Real Men, Inc., Wichita, KS; J.D. and Ralf, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Finney & Kearny Counties, Garden City, KS; Paola and Linda, MANA de Topeka- Hermanitas Program, Topeka, KS; Cody and Chantiel, Bennington High School YouthFriends, Corps., Bennington, KS; Tyrel and Randy, Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Cloud, Mitchell, & Republic Counties, Concordia, KS

Kansas Mentors' Outstanding Match award gives recognition to mentoring relationships that demonstrate a significant impact in the lives of both the mentor and mentee. Recipients were selected based on their active involvement, and spirit of creativity and tenacity in the development of their relationship, as well as being part of a program that is committed to achieving and upholding best practices.

In recognition of their efforts and success in mentoring, matches will be featured in a TV spot with Coach Snyder publicizing the 2009 Coaches Challenge between Kansas and Nebraska.

This is the second year for the Challenge, a friendly wager between former Nebraska head football Coach Tom Osborne and K-State's head football Coach Bill Snyder to see which state, Kansas or Nebraska, can recruit the most new mentors during the 2009 football season.

The Challenge will kick-off August 1, with the winner announced at the K-State Nebraska football game on November 21 in Lincoln.

Kansas Mentors, Kansas' statewide mentoring partnership, and Nebraska's Teammates Mentoring Program help to manage each state's respective efforts. For more information on how you can join the 2009 Coaches' Challenge, visit: www.kansasmentors.org.

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